

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-6 are pending.

The specification has been amended to incorporate by reference the International application from which the present application is based.

The claims have been amended to delete multiple claim dependencies in order to reduce the filing fee.

In view of the foregoing, early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger W. Parkhurst", written in a cursive style.

Roger W. Parkhurst  
Reg. No. 25,177

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP  
1330 Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: (202) 429-3000